

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1-38. Cancelled.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~65~~54, wherein the energy source comprises an erbium, chromium, yttrium, scandium, gallium garnet (Er, Cr:YSGG) solid state laser.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~65~~54, wherein the energy source comprises a CO2 laser.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~65~~80, wherein the aspiration cannula is formed from one or more of stainless steel and a medical grade plastic.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~65~~54, wherein the fluid guide is adapted to generate atomized fluid particles in the interaction zone.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~65~~54, wherein the electromagnetic energy transmitter is a fiber optic delivery system.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim 54, wherein the fluid comprises water.

45. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~65~~54, wherein the fluid comprises an anesthetic.

46. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~65~~64, wherein the fluid comprises a saline solution.

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim 54, wherein the fluid comprises sterile fluid.

48. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~65~~54, wherein the fluid comprises epinephrine.

49-51. Cancelled.

52. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~65~~54, wherein the energy source comprises an ER:YAG laser.

53. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~65~~54, wherein the fluid comprises epinephrine and an anesthetic.

54. (Currently Amended) A ~~tissue remover~~in vivo surgical method of cutting through cartilage, comprising:

providing a tissue remover cannula having a cannula proximal end, a cannula distal end, and a cannula axis extending between the a cannula proximal end and the a cannula distal end, an inner wall surface encompassing the tissue remover cannula having a cannula wall with an inner wall surface and being provided with a cannula lumen defined as a volume encompassed by the inner wall surface, whereby the cannula lumen is in communication with the cannula distal end, and a fluid supply guide, and an electromagnetic energy transmitter disposed within the tissue remover cannula, the fluid supply guide;

positioning the cannula distal end into close proximity with the cartilage so that an interaction zone is defined between the cannula distal end and the cartilage;

transporting fluid to a distal end of the fluid supply guide and being adapted to generate fluid in the interaction zone located in close proximity to the distal end of the fluid supply guide and beyond the cannula distal end; and

propagating electromagnetic energy through the electromagnetic energy transmitter along a transmitter axis within the tissue remover cannula and into the interaction zone, the electromagnetic energy transmitter having a transmitter proximal end, a transmitter distal end, and a transmitter axis extending between the transmitter proximal end and the transmitter distal end, the transmitter axis being (a) non-identical to, (b) non-overlapping with and (c)

closer to the inner wall surface than the cannula axis, ~~the electromagnetic energy transmitter being coupled to an energy source that is configured to output electromagnetic energy having a wavelength that is substantially absorbed by the fluid such that in use;~~

the electromagnetic energy from the electromagnetic energy transmitter is being substantially absorbed by a portion of the fluid in the interaction zone, the absorption of the electromagnetic energy by the portion of fluid causing the portion of fluid to expand;[.]] and

imparting disruptive cutting forces ~~are imparted onto soft or hard tissue~~the cartilage in close proximity with the cannula distal end to thereby cut through the cartilage.

55. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover method~~ as set forth in Claim 54, wherein the energy source comprises an Er, Cr:YSGG laser.

56. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover method~~ as set forth in Claim 54, wherein the energy source comprises an infrared laser and the tissue remover cannula further comprises an infrared imager.

57. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover method~~ as set forth in Claim 54, wherein the tissue remover cannula further comprise an imager disposed within the tissue remover cannula.

58. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover method~~ as set forth in Claim 54, and further comprising an imager disposed within the cannula lumen.

59. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover method~~ as set forth in Claim 56, wherein the imager maps temperature differences of tissue in close proximity with the cannula distal end by detecting electromagnetic radiation from tissue that is at different temperatures from its surroundings.

60-75. Cancelled.

76. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover method~~ according to claim 54, wherein the fluid supply guide is adapted to generate atomized fluid particles in the interaction zone.

77. Cancelled.

78. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method as set forth in Claim 54, and further comprising:

an imager, the imager being adapted to provide an image to a user of an area; and
a source of aspiration connected to a proximal end of the tissue remover cannula, the source of aspiration being configured to aspirate fluid from the fluid supply guide, and tissue debris, through the cannula distal end and the tissue remover cannula.

79. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~65~~78, and further comprising a source of aspiration connected to a proximal end of the aspiration cannula, the source of aspiration being configured to aspirate fluid, and soft or hard tissue, through the open cannula distal end and the aspiration cannula.

80. (Currently Amended) The ~~tissue remover~~method according to claim ~~66~~54, and further comprising a source of aspiration connected to a proximal end of the aspiration cannula, the source of aspiration being configured to aspirate fluid, and soft or hard tissue, through the open cannula distal end and the aspiration cannula.